

In The Claims:

- 2 1. (Original) A method of conveying particulate material from an air seeder
3 having a container with a floor for holding a supply of said particulate material and a
4 metering mechanism for dispensing said particulate material, comprising the steps of:
5 allowing said particulate material within said container to drain by gravity into
6 said metering mechanism;
7 sensing a shortage of supply of said particulate material to be dispensed from
8 said metering mechanism as a result of said allowing step; and
9 rotating an auger housed within a trough in a floor member of said container to
10 deliver any remaining particulate material within said container to said metering
11 mechanism.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said sensing step includes sensing
2 a lack of sufficient supply of particulate material within said metering mechanism.
- 1 3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said sensing step includes sensing
2 a predetermined level of supply of particulate material within said container with an
3 optical sensor.
- 1 4. Cancelled.
- 1 5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said allowing step is enhanced by
2 the shape of said floor of said container to drain particulate material both vertically
3 and horizontally into said metering mechanism.
- 1 6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said rotating step is accomplished
2 by initiating a motor connected to an end of said auger remote from said metering
3 mechanism.

- 1 7. Cancelled.
- 1 8. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, further including pressurizing the
2 container.
- 1 9. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of pressuring is provided by a
2 fan mechanism connected to provide a supply of air to the container.
- 1 10. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the metering mechanism is located at
2 one end of the container and the floor of the container is sloped from a distal end of the
3 container relative thereto toward the metering mechanism.
- 1 11. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of rotating the auger is
2 performed only when the step of sensing indicates a shortage of supply of said
3 particulate material to be dispensed through the metering mechanism.
- 1 12. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the floor includes a first V-shaped
2 configuration and a second V-shaped configuration converging at the metering
3 mechanism, and the trough is located at a lower apex of each of the first and second V-
4 shaped configurations.
- 1 13. (New) The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:
2 sensing a sufficient supply of said particulate material to the metering
3 mechanism; and
4 stopping rotation of auger in response to the step of sensing the sufficient
5 supply of said particulate material to the metering mechanism.
- 1 14. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of sensing the
2 shortage of supply of said particulate material is performed in a product box of the
3 metering mechanism; and further including the step of conveying said particulate
4 material from the container into the product supply box of the metering mechanism.
- 1 15. (New) A method of conveying particulate material from an air seeder having a
2 container with a floor for holding a supply of said particulate material and a metering
3 mechanism for dispensing said particulate material, comprising the steps of:

4 allowing said particulate material within said container to drain by gravity into
5 said metering mechanism;

6 sensing a shortage of supply of said particulate material to be dispensed from
7 said metering mechanism as a result of said allowing step; and

8 rotating an auger housed within a trough in a floor member of said container to
9 deliver any remaining particulate material within said container to said metering
10 mechanism,

11 wherein said sensing step includes sensing a lowered torque requirement to effect
12 rotation of said auger.

1 16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the metering mechanism is located at
2 one end of the container and the floor of the container is sloped from a distal end of the
3 container relative thereto toward the metering mechanism.

1 17. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the step of rotating the auger is
2 performed only when step of sensing indicates a shortage of particulate material to be
3 dispensed through the metering mechanism.

1 18. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the floor includes a first V-shaped
2 configuration and a second V-shaped configuration converging at the metering
3 mechanism, wherein the trough is located at a lower apex of each of the first and
4 second V-shaped configurations, and wherein the rotating step includes rotating each
5 auger so as to deliver the particulate material for dispensing by the metering
6 mechanism.

1 19. (New) The method of claim 15, further including the step of receiving said
2 particulate material from the metering mechanism with a supply of air.

1 20. (New) A method of conveying particulate material from an air seeder having a
2 container with a floor for holding a supply of said particulate material and a metering
3 mechanism for dispensing said particulate material, comprising the steps of:

4 allowing said particulate material within said container to drain by gravity into
5 said metering mechanism;

6 sensing a shortage of supply of said particulate material to be dispensed from
7 said metering mechanism as a result of said allowing step; and
8 rotating an auger housed within a trough in a floor member of said container to
9 deliver any remaining particulate material within said container to said metering
10 mechanism,
11 wherein said air seeder is provided with at least two containers for housing different
12 particulate material, said allowing, sensing and rotating steps being accomplished
13 independently within each said respective containers.

1 21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein each of the at least two containers is
2 mounted on a frame mechanism supported by a plurality of ground engaging wheels,
3 and further including the step of moving the containers across the ground.

1 22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the first container includes a supply
2 of a seed material, and the second container includes a supply of a fertilizer material.